Solid Oxide Fuel Cell Technology for Hybrid Power Generation

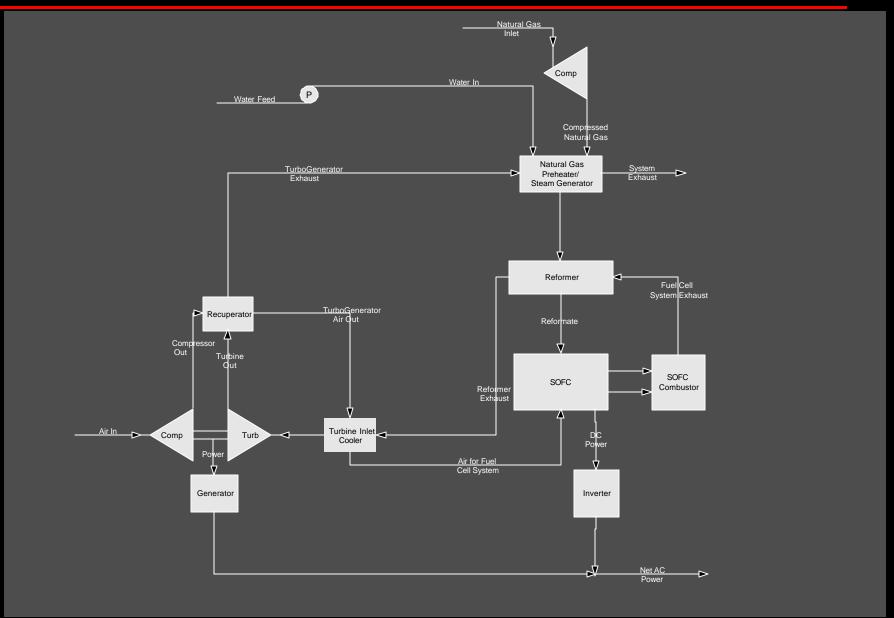
Nguyen Minh

GE Hybrid Power Generation Systems



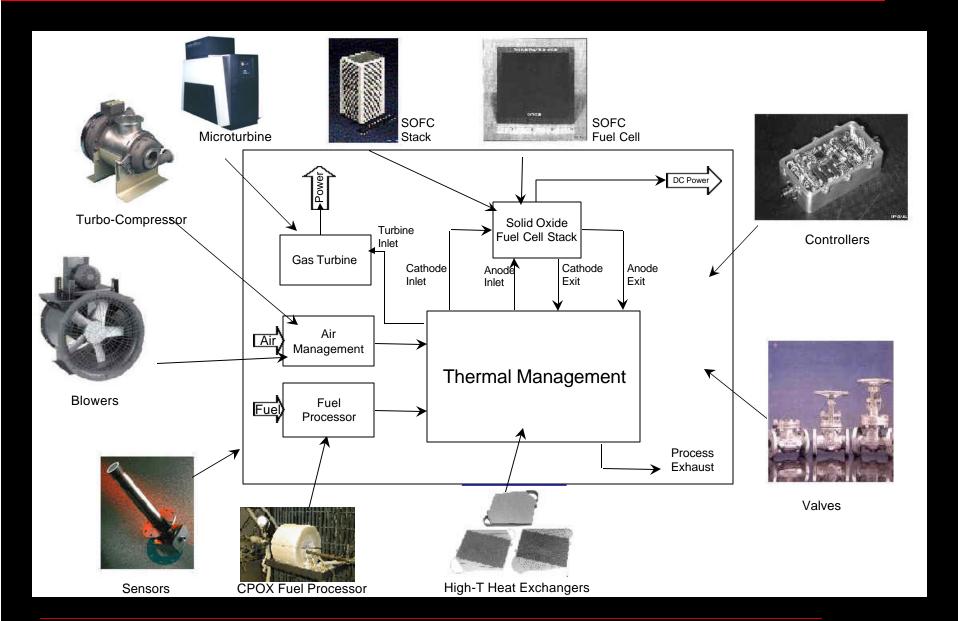


SOFC Hybrid System Concept





Simplified SOFC System & Components





Key System Components

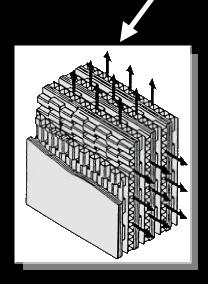
- SOFC
 - High-performance reduced-temperature planar cells
- Microturbine
 - Commercial systems
- Other subsystems
 - Fuel processor
 - Thermal management
 - Flexible control subsystem

- System features
 - High efficiency
 - Low cost
 - Low emissions and low noise
- Planar SOFC technology for hybrid power generation
 - High power density
 - Reduced cost

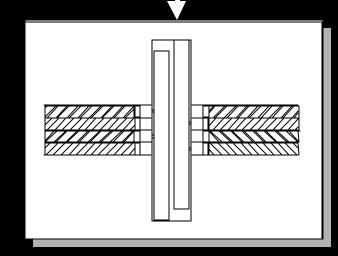


SOFC Stack Configurations

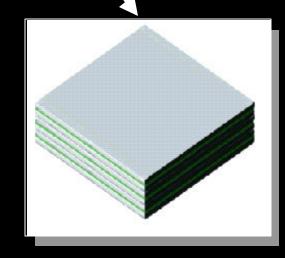
- Thin film electrolytes
- Thin foil metallic interconnects
- Gas manifold options
- Gas flow configuration flexibility



Crossflow Design



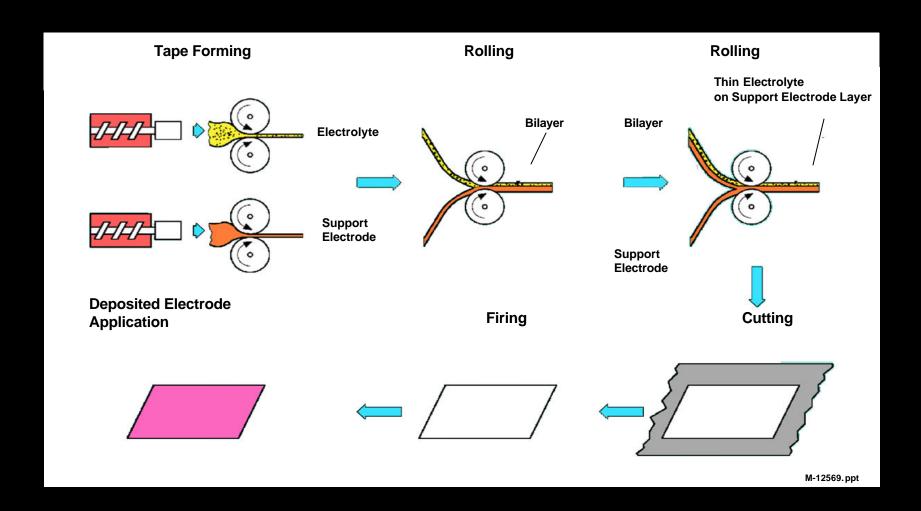
Radial Flow Design



Unitized Cell Design

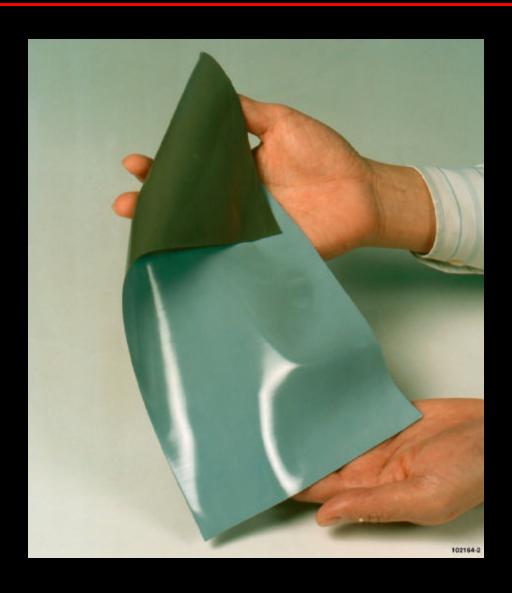


Cell Fabrication





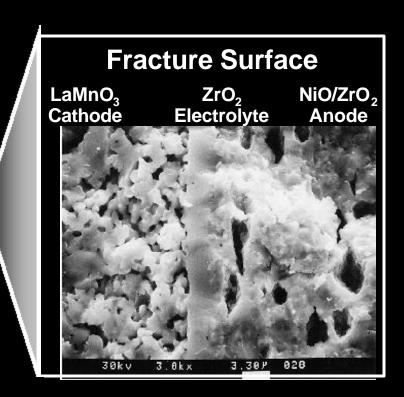
Green Thin Electrolyte/Anode Bilayer Tape





High-Performance Anode-Supported SOFC







Low Cost Manufacturing Process

 Fabrication process with tape calendering RAW MIXER

MIXER

FINAL CELL

FIRING

STACK

METAL
FORMING

FORMING

FORMING

FORMING

FORMING

FORMING

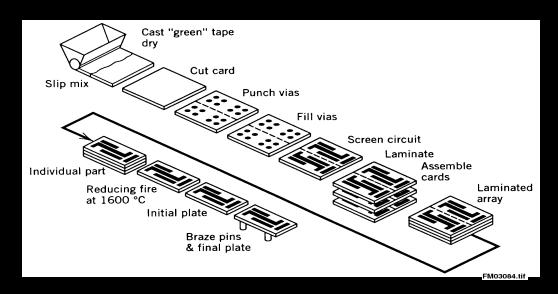
FINAL CELL

FIRING

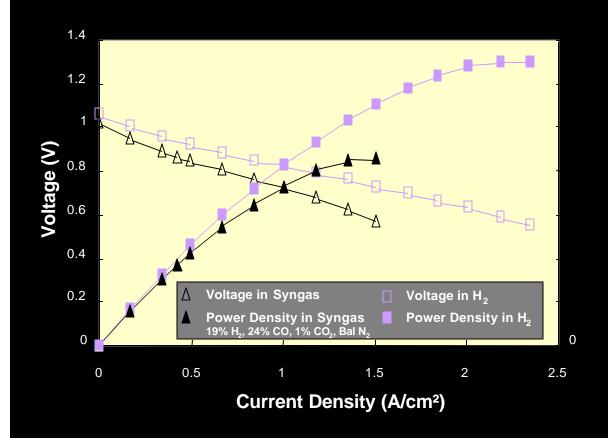
METAL
FORMING

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Multilayer electronics fabrication process



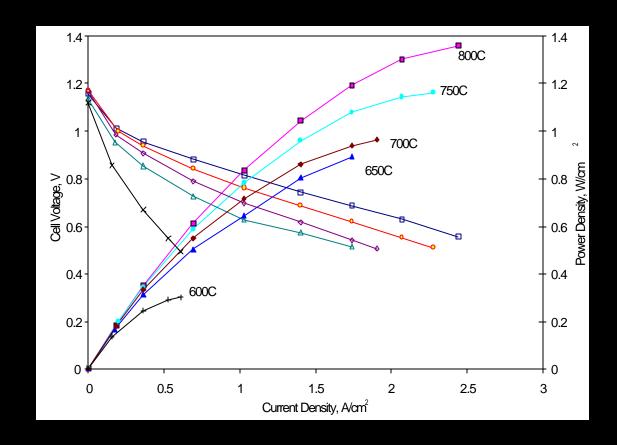
SOFC Cell Performance



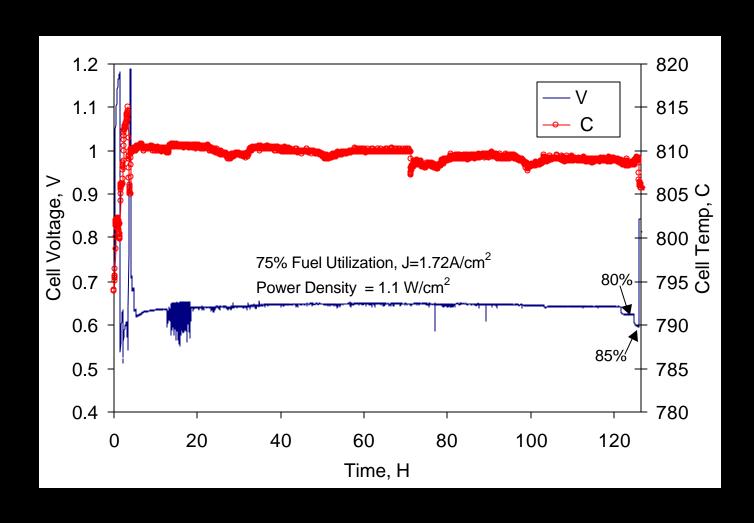
- 800°C operation
- Peak power density:
 - 1.3 W/cm² in hydrogen
 - 0.85 W/cm² in syngas



SOFC Cell Performance at Reduced Temperatures



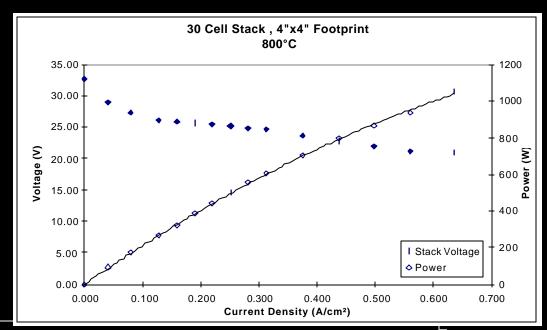
• High power densities (e.g., 0.9 W/cm² at 650°C) achieved at reduced temperatures (<800°C) with anode-supported thin-electrolyte cells





SOFC Stack Performance

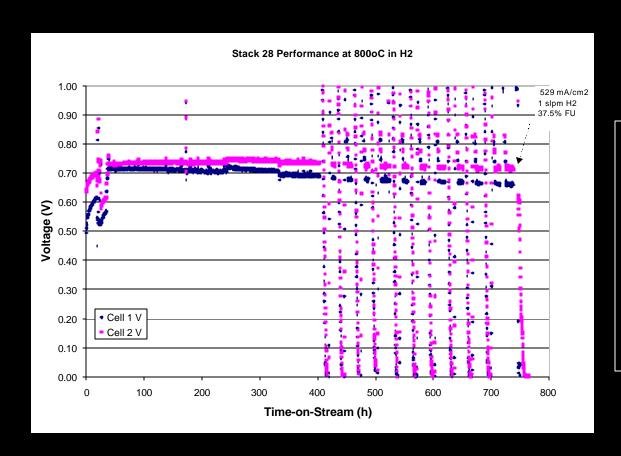




- 10 cm x 10 cm footprint
- 800°C operation in hydrogen and air at ambient pressure
- Power:
 - 1.1 kW at 0.7 V / cell
 - 1.4 kW at peak power
- Power density:
 - 0.42 W/cm2 at 0.7 V/cell
 - 0.6 W / cm² at peak power
 - 0.7 kW / kg, 0.7 kW / L at peak power
 - 0.53 kW / kg, 0.53 kW / L at 0.7 V/cell



Stack Thermal Cycling

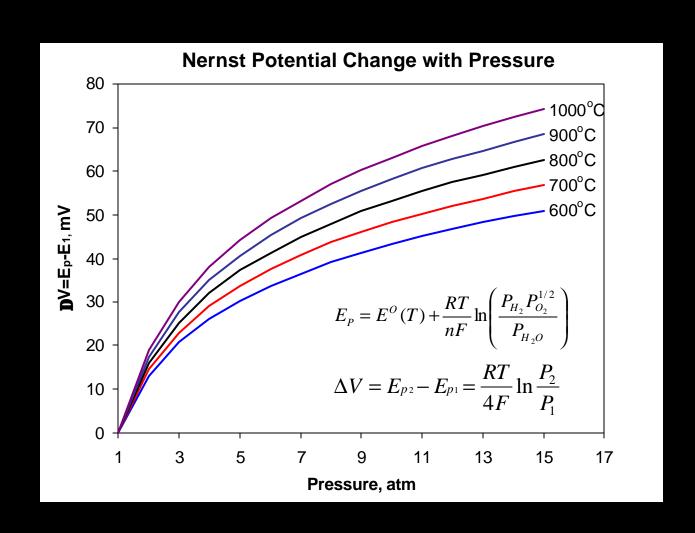


- Multiple thermal cycles without significant performance degradation
- Minimal change in open circuit voltage and voltage under load between cycles

SOFC Performance Enhancement with Pressure

- Cell performance is enhanced with pressurized operation thermodynamically and kinetically
 - Increase in Nernst potential
 - Decrease in activation polarization
 - Exchange current density
 - Decrease in concentration polarization
 - Limiting current density

Nernst Potential Increases with Pressure





Electrode Kinetics Enhanced with Pressure

Pressure will benefit electrode kinetics through increase in both exchange current density and limiting current density

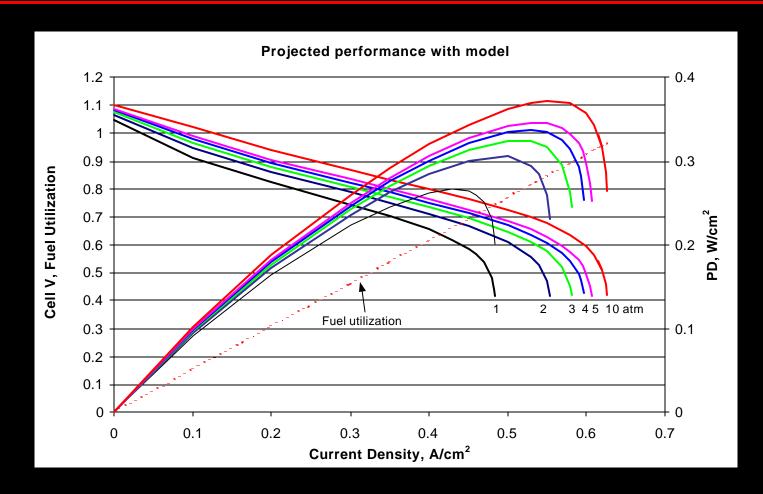
Exchange Current Density i

Electrode Limiting Current Density i_a

$$P_{H_2} \uparrow \square \rightarrow i_0 \uparrow i_a \uparrow$$



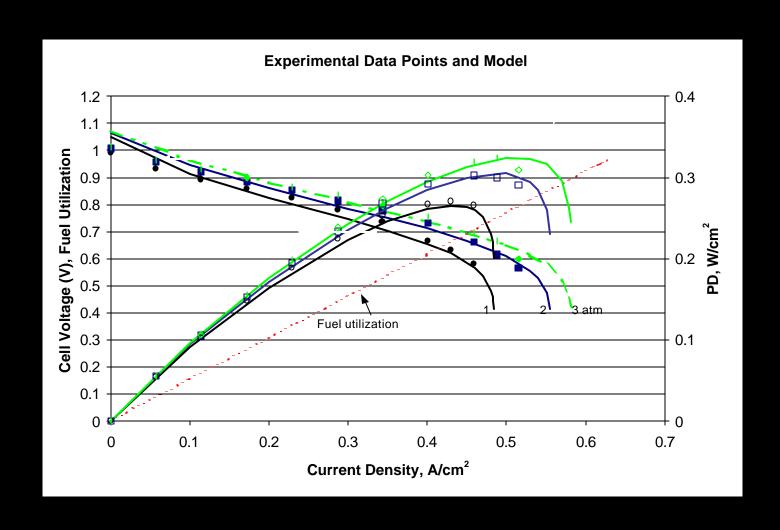
SOFC Performance Projection



- •Significant performance enhancement observed from 1 to 3 atm
- •Moderate performance improvement expected from 4 to 10 atm



Pressurized SOFC Performance



Concluding Remarks

- Planar SOFC technology for hybrid power generation over a broad range of system sizes
- Planar SOFCs based on thin-electrolyte anode supported cells
 - Simple, low-cost tape calendering fabrication process
 - High power density
 - Pressurized operation

